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NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Mel T. Cook delivered an illustrated lecture at the New York Botanical Garden, June 13, on diseases of potatoes.

Professor H. C. Beardslee, of Asheville, North Carolina, visited the Garden July 1 on his way to Lake Placid in the Adirondacks.

Professor L. H. Pennington spent several days at the Garden early in July, continuing his work upon the genus *Marasmius* for NORTH AMERICAN FLORA.

Professor T. H. Macbride, for many years professor of botany in the State University of Iowa and for some time past acting president, has recently been appointed president of the university.

Mr. W. H. Long, forest pathologist for the United States Department of Agriculture, recently spent several days at the New York Botanical Garden, studying certain fungi of forest trees collected in Florida and North Carolina.

Dr. Fred J. Seaver spent the early part of July at Portland, Connecticut, where he was engaged in the collection and study of local fungi, especially the fleshy Discomycetes.

Miss Florence McCormick, assistant professor of agricultural botany in the Agricultural Experiment Station of Nebraska, is spending part of the summer at the New York Botanical Garden, engaged in a study of the cytology of the Mucorales.

The American Journal of Botany for March contains the address of the retiring president of the Botanical Society of America on Problems and Progress of Plant Pathology. The same number also contains an article by Alban Stewart on Some Observations on the Anatomy and Other Features of the Black Knot; also an article by Professor R. A. Harper on Cleavage in *Didymium melanospermum* (Pers.) Macbr. The entire number shows a mycological trend. The April number contains a lengthy article by Bascombe Britt Higgins on Contribution to the Life History and Physiology of *Cylindrosporium* on Stone Fruits.

The Botanical Gazette for April contains a note by Dr. Roland Thaxter on the ascosporic condition of the genus *Aschersonia* Montagne. It had been suspected that the ascosporic form, if such existed, would place this genus among the Hypocreaceae, possibly with the genus *Hypocrella.* After careful search for the ascosporic form of *Aschersonia* in the island of Grenada, the search was finally rewarded by finding a few which showed suspicious looking pustules which proved to be perithecia. In Trinidad, species of *Aschersonia* were more numerous and often showed the ascosporic stage. A study of these plants shows *Aschersonia* to be closely related to the genus *Cordyceps.* The article contains a description and illustration of the perfect stage of *Aschersonia turbinata* Berk.

ORIGIN OF THE VOLVA APERTURE IN CRYPTOPORUS VOLVATUS (PECK) HUBBARD

This interesting species of the Polyporaceae is quite common on fire-killed specimens of *Pinus rigida* west of Albany. It is one of the earliest species of that family to mature. Mature specimens were found at intervals between May 10 and June 1. The young specimens are nearly globose and sometimes slightly varnished upon the upper surface, so that at first glance they might easily be taken for the button stage of *Fomes ungulatus.* A cross section of this stage, however, shows that the hymenium is nearly if not quite mature and the absence of any opening in the thick, hard volva naturally gives rise to the question of how that aperture which is seen in mature specimens originates.

About the time the spores are mature, a round hole is bored in the crust-like volva by small weevils (*Plesiocis* sp.), which invade the interior cavity of the fungus in great numbers and seemingly feed upon the spores. At least, they become covered with them and also invade the borings through the bark of the pines made by emerging adult bark-beetles (*Tomicus*), through which the sporophores of the fungus usually emerge. The weevil is hence an important agent in the dissemination of the spores and is responsible for the round apertures in the volva of mature specimens of *Cryptoporus*.

Another beetle, one of the short-winged scavenger beetles (*Placusa despecta* Er.) frequently takes refuge within the volva after the initial opening has been made by the weevil and may also be instrumental in the dissemination of the spores.

I am indebted to Mr. D. B. Young of the New York State Museum for the insect determinations.

H. D. HOUSE.